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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/629,565 | 07/30/2003 | Min-Ho Seo | P24001 | 6472 |
| 7055 | 7590 | 03/20/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191 | | | SCHLIE, PAUL W | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2186 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/629,565 | SEO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Paul W. Schlie | 2186 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 23-44 have been examined as amended, where originally amended claims 1-22 have been cancelled, and claims 23-44 are newly introduced.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 2/28/06 with respect to objections to previous claims 1-3 (now amended claims 23-25) and the disclosure have been fully considered and are persuasive; thereby have been withdrawn in response to their replacement (however please note that an informality has been introduced in the newly filed amended abstract detailed below).
3. Applicant's remaining arguments filed 2/28/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and/or moot in view of the analogous grounds of rejection of claims 23-44 closely corresponding to the previously rejected amended claims 1-22.

As per arguments regarding claims 23, 25 and 27 (previously claims 1, 3 and 5 with the further limitation that power is not provided to an external storage device during an inactivated mode) and thereby all correspondingly dependant claims; in response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, as an external "stick shaped

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memory" (storage device) and "apparatus" (media processing device) as disclosed and considered taught by Yokota et al., in combination with the knowledge that a hard disk (storage device) within a similar media processing system need only be powered-on just long enough to transfer data anticipated to be required (to save power) as disclosed and considered taught by Birrell et al., are considered obvious to combine, thereby teaching that a storage device as may be utilized by a media processing device may be inactivated during period of time not otherwise required to transfer anticipated required data to save power, by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention; thereby correspondingly amended claim rejections are sustained.

Specification

4. The amended abstract is objected to because the phrase "transmits the input signal" on line 10 should likely read as "receives the input signal" as presumed to be intended.

As the remaining specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. Corrective action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 23-24, 27 and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. (EP 1,081,699 A1) in further view of Birrell et al. (6,332,175).

As per claim 23-24, 27 and 35-38, Yokota teaches a media processing device comprising: a signal sourcing and output module (figure 3 items 53-56), a signal processing module (figure 3 item 49), a storage device access module which interconnects to a storage device through some certain transmission medium (figure 3 items 42-43), a user interface module (figure 3 items 21, 30, and 45), a system controller module including corresponding system program and data memory modules (figure 3 item 41/48); whereby upon the receipt of a command from the user interface module, a signal sourced from the signal sourcing module may be encoded by a second signal processing method by the signal processing module, and subsequently stored as a media file on an external storage device accessed through the storage device access module when accessible; and correspondingly, signals encoded and stored as media files on an external storage device accessed through the storage access module, whose information (such as directory structure, thereby deemed inherent) may be copied to system memory and displayed by the user interface module, where upon a command to decode one or more media files, the previously stored encoded signal data is copied to the system data memory module and correspondingly sourced to the signal processing module, which decodes the previously encoded data utilizing a first signal processing method and forwards the resulting signal to the signal output module.

Where Yokota et al. further teaches that power may be saved by inactivating non-

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presently required modules (figure 4 and column 20 lines 1-14), but does not explicitly teach that the storage device interface module may be inactivated when access to a correspondingly interconnected storage device is not presently necessary, nor that read data may be read from an external lower priority accessed storage device and buffered in system memory prior to its requirement, so that the storage device may be inactivated to save power. However, Birrell et al. teaches that a lower priority accessed external storage device may have its data copied to a local memory from where it will be subsequently accessed, thereby enabling the external storage device to be inactivated to save power (figure 4). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine that taught by Yokota et al. with that taught by Birrell et al. such that an external storage device utilized by a media processing device may be inactivated during period of time not otherwise required to transfer anticipated required data to save power.

7. Claim 25-26, 28-31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. (EP 1,081,699 A1) and Birrell et al. (6,332,175) in further view of Shimada (U.S. App. 2002/0154900).

As per claims 25-26, 28-31, being identical to that taught by Yokota et al. and Birrell et al. as applicable to independent claims 23 and 27 above, however does not teach that an external storage device may contain bootstrap program code, which upon being read may control the subsequent behavior of a media processing device. However in view of the fact that most computing devices which support external storage devices enable the machine to bootstrap themselves from such devices, and that

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Shimada further teaches more specifically that such a media processing device may bootstrap itself with the program code stored within external storage devices which controls the processing of media file encoding, decoding and/or recording/playback (figure 11 element 80); it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify that taught by Yokota, to enable a media processing device to bootstrap itself with specific program code contained within an external storage device, copy file information into system memory for subsequent use, and/or to duplicate code onto other storage devices as may be desired, for the benefit of being able to define and/or configure the functionality and/or capabilities of a media processing device as a function of the program and/or data content stored on an external storage device.

8. Claim 32-34 and 39-44, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. (EP 1,081,699 A1), Birrell et al. (6,332,175) and Shimada (U.S. App. 2002/0154900).


As per claims 32-34 and 39-44, being dependant on claims 23, 25, or 27; Yokota further teaches that an arbitrary standard communication medium and/or protocol may be utilized to access external storage and/or control (column 5 lines 53-56, and column 6 lines 8-12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize various forms of standardized USB, IEEE 1394, and/or wireless access means and/or protocols, for the benefit of satisfying various commercial market interface requirements as may be desired.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul W. Schlie whose telephone number is 571-272-6765, or whose email address is [paul.schlie@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Kim can be reached on 517-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


PIERRE BATAILLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
3/15/06